



## The Senate of Mexico, core institution for change

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The Senate is bearer, in combination with other legal and political attributes, of two main constitutional roles: it represents the federalist union of the states of the Mexican Republic; that is to say, it embodies the Federal Pact, and gives course to the international relations of Mexico, which are managed and headed by the Nation's President. Ever since the Senate was established, those two virtues are equally powerful. Hence, beyond other considerations, such as being a review chamber, in cooperation with the House of Representatives, it holds many and very important republican duties, to which society always assigns a considerable importance.

Andrés Manuel López Obrador, President-elect of Mexico, who managed to get to that high republican seat in an overwhelming and democratic way, as we experienced it, has assigned to both chambers of the Legislative Body a dozen of important tasks that he has considered a priority within his initial activities, and with them he began to govern long before coming to executive power. Three of them are of great social relevance, namely:

- (1) To promote laws, decrees or agreements in order to have an austere government and carry out the austerity plan, which means to terminate with budget discretionary management, which allowed regular pillage, misuse and "inexplicable" enrichment of thieving public officers. The Senate of Mexico has already begun the process of compliance to this requirement.
- (2) To double the minimum wage in the northern border area of the country, which will not only bring benefits to this region, but it will inevitably have positive repercussions far and wide of nation, as it is also planned, as a parallel action, the development of a regulatory law of wages, all of which will contribute to improve living standards of the working class.
- (3) To reform the law to consider serious crimes and without right to bail, corruption in all its forms, fuel theft and electoral fraud in any of its modalities.

These three tasks are profoundly wise and important to set a new path in Mexico's economic and social development effort. Obviously, the other nine tasks are complementary, transcendent and substantial, but socially these three will have a strong impact on the country, which will be noticed once they have been approved and implemented.

We can say that it was high time for a Mexican government to retrace the roads of complacency and privilege in favour of a few, while at the same time the majority sectors of the Mexican people were in state of vulnerability and defencelessness, and who have always deserved a better political and social destiny ever since the emerged government from the revolution of 1917 triumphed in the second decade of the twentieth century. History tells us how a voracious caste created in those days superseded the popular will, achieved the divorce of the government and the organized people (except in the nationalist period of General Lázaro Cárdenas del Río) and it was devoted about making prosper its private business. This is now beginning to change.

These three goals of President-elect López Obrador, already places him as a first order statesman in the history of Mexico. It is expected that he will achieve these goals, and the other nine too, because he has the overwhelming popular support in his favour as well as his own decision that he has repeatedly expressed to walk along those paths of people's liberation. As senators, we will be fully committed to achieving goals fulfilment.

The Legislative Body is facing its destiny's dilemma. Likewise, the Senate of Mexico has the significant challenge of advancing on the right path, with the freedom granted by our laws and the national democratic life, in order to assert people's sovereign decision in these purposes of unquestionable progressive character.

Undoubtedly, Mexican Senate must assume the challenges proposed by Andrés Manuel López Obrador, the President-elect most voted by the people in recent years. Honouring that call will contribute to recover the perception of this collegiate body, but more than anything else, it will help make possible the path of redemption that mobilized substantive masses of the Mexican people during López Obrador's election campaign. The Senate can and must demonstrate that it is the core institution for the change that Mexico is expecting and willing to support.